

STATE SENATOR • HANSEN CLARKE • 1ST DISTRICT

Clarke Press Release

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SEN. CLARKE'S CHILDHOOD LEAD POISONING BILL ADVANCES

LANSING- Calling it an important first-step in the fight against childhood lead poisoning, state Senator Hansen Clarke (D-Detroit) stated that he was very pleased that his bill, Senate Bill 757, was voted out of the Senate Families and Human Services Committee today. Senator Clarke's bill, part of a legislative package called for by Governor Granholm, would establish penalties for landlords who knowingly rent housing units with dangerous levels of lead. Sen. Clarke's bill would make repeat offenses of such an act punishable by up to 90 days imprisonment or a maximum fine of \$10,000 or both.

"Sixty nine percent of all confirmed cases of elevated blood lead levels are from right here in Detroit," said Sen. Clarke. "We need to do more to protect Detroit's children from this serious health hazard. My legislation seeks to help protect children by targeting unscrupulous landlords who knowingly rent housing units with lead contaminate problems."

The five-bill package includes measures that will:

- Create a Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Control Commission;
- Require Medicaid managed Care Organizations and Fee for Service Providers to provide lead screening test to no fewer than 80 percent of Medicaid enrolled children;
- Require electronic reporting from Michigan laboratories of positive lead results;

- Create an online and printed “Lead Free Rental Housing Registry” that will include new lead-free construction units or inspected rental units that have been found to be lead free; and
- Create state civil and criminal penalties for landlords who knowingly rent homes with dangerous levels of lead.

“Our children are our future,” Governor Granholm said. “Protecting their health today means that we’re protecting the health of our entire state tomorrow. Lead poisoning is 100 percent incurable, but 100 percent preventable. I know Sen. Clarke is a staunch advocate for keeping kids healthy. I thank him for all of his hard work and support on this very important issue.”

For a copy of the Governor’s Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention report, go to:

http://www.michigan.gov/documents/ChildLeadPoisoning2_71150_7.pdf